

Board Meeting Coventry Fire, Anthony District

Wednesday September 12, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:10 P.M.

Board members in attendance Gary Cote-chair, Shirley Matthews co-chair, Peter Pankowicz, and Louis Cote. Jim Beckman absent. Also in attendance Chief Labbadia, Deputy Chief Robert Warren, and Tom Lacolle.

AGENDA:

1) Emergency evacuation procedures.

2) Roll call.

3) Chair report.

4) Approval of minutes from the meeting held on August 15, 2012.

Gary Cote reads the tax office report prepared by Jeanne Lukowicz, tax collector. Taxes collected to

date \$1,775,828.11. Interest collected to date \$71,729.16. Total tax and interest collected

\$1,847,557.27. The fourth quarter is due October 31,2012. The tax sale is scheduled for October 11,

2012. We have 37 properties on the tax sale list to date. The total collected from legal letters to date is

\$108,086.68. The total collected for legal fees and expenses paid by the taxpayers is \$26,642.00 which

has been transferred to the lawyer for certified letters and title searches. The levy is \$2,070,344.60 we

have collected \$1,433,806.57 in 2012 taxes, we have collected 69 of

collectable taxes. Tom Lacolle

asked Jeanne Lukowicz how much was collected from back taxes. Jeanne said it was around

\$437,000.00.

Gary Cote mentioned that he and the other Board members do not like to do tax sales. The Chief stated

that housing would end up buying most of them. The Chief also mentioned that the district works very

hard to work with delinquent accounts and give the taxpayers a break and many chances to make

payment plans and to catch up on the money owed. Gary Cote mentioned that is very difficult to have

to sell someone's house at a tax sale and then have to see them out in public. Gary Cote realizes that is

it not pleasant but it has to be done.

Gary Cote said that the Board had to make a decision to advertise the three positions that were up for

election this year. Gary Cote said that he likes the Board the way it sits, but if anyone knows anybody in

the district interested in the positions to let them know. Joanne Leroux will have John Golomb sign the

notice for the ad that will be in the Reminder and to collect a check from Tom Lacolle. Gary Cote

mentioned that a J4 page ad runs about \$598.00. Shirley Matthews said that sometimes a non-profit

organization can get a discount. Joanne Leroux mentioned that in

years past notices were just posted around town. Gary Cote stated that he wanted it advertised in the newspaper. Shirley Matthews mentioned that preparations for the annual meeting in December have started. Shirley Matthews

contacted Club Joques and they have agreed to let us have the hall for free in exchange for the fire truck bringing Santa as is the usual agreement.

Louis Cote made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on August 15, 2012, seconded by Shirley Matthews. All in favor, motion carries.

The Executive session has been cancelled for this meeting.

Tom Lacolle made a presentation to explain the difference in the bids submitted by three different payroll companies. The three companies were American at a cost of \$1,770.00 annually, Data Pay at

\$1,870.00 and ADP at \$3,112.00. Data Pay actually does payroll for other fire districts and they know how and what to do already. Gary Cote asked if they were the lowest bidder. Tom Lacolle said no they were the middle bid. Tom Lacolle said that they already know how to take care of overtime and longevity pay.

Gary Cote said that he was comfortable with them not being the

lowest bidders. Gary Cote asked if they would know how to handle child support deductions and other deductions. Tom Lacolle mentioned that he felt confident that it would not be an issue. Tom Lacolle also mentioned that the price may vary if someone goes from a paycheck to direct deposit. Gary Cote commended Tom Lacolle for not recommending the lowest bidder. Tom Lacolle knows that the money paid to Data Pay would come out of his pay from his employment agreement with the district. Gary Cote knows that illness is out of someone's control, but Tom Lacolle would still be responsible for pension and union dues and would still be active in payroll. Tom Lacolle stated that the third quarter ends with the paychecks on September 28th and Data Pay could take over for the fourth quarter and they would have all the figures for the last three quarters. Joanne Leroux asked if she would still e-mail or call in the hours to Tom Lacolle. Tom Lacolle said yes that they would continue to do what they have been doing. Gary Cote asked if Tom Lacolle's official recommendation was for Data Pay. Tom Lacolle said yes. Louis Cote made a motion to accept Data Pay as the new payroll company for the district, seconded by Peter Pankowicz. All in favor, motion carries.

The Chief said that he has three people out on oji and has made several calls to the retirement board and doctors, but has gotten no response. He said that he would be sending certified letters to them to get the answers needed. The retirement board is waiting to get a block of men together so they can submit all the paperwork at once. Gary Cote suggested getting the attorney involved to get things moving.

to collect. The Chief also stated that we will probably have 15 in unpaid taxes again this year. Gary Cote mentioned that the Board would have to put a spending freeze in effect if things start going too much over budget. The Chief stated that he didn't expect to have guys out this long. We have not used the \$100,000.00 on the deficit line. Gary Cote mentioned that the \$200,000.00 is not a deficit it's a line of credit. Tom Lacolle stated that it was a case of expenditures in excess of revenue. Gary Cote stated that the line of credit couldn't be needed if all the taxes were collected. Tom Lacolle said it would still be needed due to overtime expenses, but not in the amount of \$200,000.00. Gary Cote said he would like to see the budget at +/- 3 which is considered a wash. Shirley Matthews asked about the

\$11,000.00 in the fire marshal's account and what he would be doing with the money. The Chief said there is a plan to use the money, but legally it can only be used for certain things. Gary Cote mentioned

that maybe next year it can be used for fire safety month in the schools.

Tom Lacolle read a letter that states. The new defined contribution retirement plan put into effect July

1, 2012 and administered by TIAA-CREF requires an employer contribution for each regular member not participating in Social Security, an amount equal to three percent (3) of the member's compensation. I

have discussed this with a representative of TIAA-CREF and the State of Rhode Island and they are telling

me that the 3 contribution applies to one of our employees. No employer matching contribution is

required for another employee pertaining to ERSRI but it does to TIAA-CREF. I need the Board's approval

to make matching contributions to the employees retirement account with TIAA-CREF. The three percent

(3) contribution will mount in an additional pension expense totaling \$1,085.46 per year.

Louis Cote made a motion to approve the additional amount in pension expenses, seconded by Peter

Pankowicz. All in favor motion carries.

Louis Cote made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Peter Pankowicz. All in favor, motion

carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Perry